

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 /090 W
-----111209 171209Z /47

R 160955Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4587
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: TH, CH, PEPR
SUBJ: DEPARTUE OF PRC AMB CH'AI TSE-MIN

REF BANGKOK 13097,

1. FESTIVITIES SURROUNDING TH DEPARTURE OF PRC AMB TO THAILAND CH'AI TSE-MIN CONTINUED AT AN UNPRECEDETED LEVEL, CULMINATING THIS WEEK IN A DINNER HOSTED BY PM KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN AT HIS OWN HOME AND A 30 MINUTES PRIVATE AUDIENCE ON MAY 10 WITH THE KING. DURING THE AUDIENCE THE KING BESTOWED THE MOST EXALTED ORDER OF THE WHITE ELEPHANT UPON CH'AI AND THE PRC AMB REPORTEDLY RAISED AGAIN THE ISSUE OF

PEKING'S INVITATION TO THE KING AND QUEEN TO VISIT THE PRC.
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2. CH'AI HOSTED A DINNER TO SAY FAREWELL AT THE NARAI HOTEL ON THE EVENING BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. GUESTS AT THE DINNER INCLUDED VIETNAMESE AMB, HOANG BAO SON, FORMER PM M.R. KHUKRIT PRAMOT (WHO SIGNED THE THAI-PRC JONT COMMUNIQUE ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELTIONS IN 1975), AND FORMER HOUSE SPEAKER PRASIT KANCHANAWAT (WHO LED THE FIRST OFFICIAL

THAI MISSION TO THE PRC DURING THE THANOM-PRAPHAT GOVT.)

3. CH'AI TSE-MIN DEPARTED FROM DON MUANG AIRPORT ON MAY 15 ENROUTE TO PEKING. HE WAS SEEN OFF BY THE PM'S REP, GEN PHON THANAPHUM; FORNMIN UPPADIT PACHARIYANGKUN AND AMBS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

4. IN HIS DEPARTURE STATEMENT CH'AI WAS GENERALLY LOW KEY, CHARACTERIZING HIS ASSIGNMENT IN THAILAND AS HAVING BEEN "NOT AS SMOOTH" AS THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN AMB POSTED TO A COUNTRY WITH LONGER DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH THE PRC. HE ADDED THAT "GENERALLY SPEAKING, THINGS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING GRADUALLY--PARTICULARLY AFTER GEN KRIANGSAK WAS APPOINTED PM." CH'AI SAID THAT HE SAW NO SIGNS THAT THE US WAS READY TO WITHDRAW FROM SE ASIA. "THEY ARE TRYING THEIR BEST TO KEEP THEIR PRESENCE IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TERMS IN THIS REGION." CH'AI SAID THAT HE BASED HIS VIEWS ON STATEMENTS MADE BY VP MONDALE DURING MONDALE'S RECENT TRIP TO SE ASIA. CH'AI WARNED OF THE SOVIET UNION'S HEGEMONISTIC DESIGNS IN SE ASIA AND SAID THAT "THE FACT THAT THAT COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE TO CLING TO AN EXPANSIONIST POLICY EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD WILL NOT CHANGE." IN CLOSING, CH'AI GAVE HIS CONTINUED SUPPORT TO ASEAN AND SAID THAT MUTUAL SUPPORT AMONG ASEAN MEMBERS AND ALIGNMENT WITH THE THIRD WORLD SHOULD BE THE MAINSTAY IN ASEAN COUNTRIES' ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES.

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5. LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE ONCE AGAIN RAISED THE ISSUE OF PRC PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG'S PROPOSED 1978 VISIT TO THAILAND AND THE PROPOSED VISIT OF THE KING AND QUEEN TO THE PRC. IT IS RUMORED THAT THE PRINCESS HOTHER MAY VISIT PEKING IN OCT (IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION DATING BACK TO EARLY 1975, PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIP RELATIONS, AND EXTENDED BY THE LATE PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI.) NEITHER DATES NOR SCHEDULES HAVE BEEN FINALIZED FOR THE VISIT OF THE KING AND QUEEN, NOR HAVE THEY BEEN FINALIZED FOR HUA'S PROPOSED VISIT.

6. COMMENT: THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITIY SURROUNDING PRC AMB CH'AI TSE-MIN'S DEPARTURE AND THE ATTENTION ACCORDED HIS DEPARTURE BY THE PRESS HAS BEEN UNPRECEDENTED.
WHITEHOUSE

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